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Nucifraga columbiana. — Probably owing to the identity of their principal winter food this species and the Crossbill were coincidentally abundant during the winter of 1894–95, very rare during that of 1895–96, and again common during so much of the winter of 1896–97 as I was at the fort, these periods being marked by the abundance or failure of the crop of cones of a common pine, upon the seeds of which both species chiefly fed. At other seasons Clark's Nutcracker appeared irregularly, probably wandering down from the surrounding hills, as, early in July, I saw several families on the higher parts of Mica Peak. For the first time in my experience in the Northwest I found this usually shy and suspicious bird to be quite tame in winter, visiting the yards of the houses for such scraps as were to be found; and they were especially fond of pecking at bones left on the surface of the snow by dogs. Several were caught by cats and one by a soldier in his hands.

(*To be concluded.*)

BIRDS OBSERVED ON A COLLECTING TRIP TO BERMUDEZ, VENEZUELA.

BY WILLIAM HENRY PHELPS.

With Critical Notes and Descriptions of Two New Species, by Frank M. Chapman.

IN THE year 1877 Dr. Adolfo Ernst[1] of Caracas divided Venezuela into four avifaunal districts: Eastern, Central, Cordilleran, and Lowland. The first comprises the group of mountains lying in the northeastern corner of the country, and is separated from the central district by the low country about Barcelona. The central district comprises the mountainous region along the northern coast, as far west as Barquisimeto. The high mountains to the west of this point are cordilleran and have affinities with the fauna of Colombia. The lowland region comprises all of that rolling country of plains and forests lying between this mountainous region of the north and the Orinoco River. The birds south of the river are Brazilian in their affinities and are

[1] Estudios sobre la Flora y Fauna de Venezuela. Caracas. 1877, p. 287.

not comprised in any of the foregoing divisions. This separation into districts was chiefly based on collections made by Mr. A. Goering[1] over a large part of the country. To that enterprising collector we are indebted for almost all the knowledge we have of the birds of this interesting country, even up to the present day.

It is the first of these districts, the eastern, that most interests us, for it was in the mountains of the State of Bermudez that I studied the birds during a few weeks in the summer of 1896. I chose this locality because it seemed to present, besides a rich avifauna, special problems of interest. Perhaps the most interesting of these was the relation of the birds of the mainland to those of the islands of Trinidad and Margarita.

The island of Trinidad lies off the eastern coast and is distant but seven miles from the mainland. The birds of this island are perhaps better known than those of any other part of the tropics. This is because of its accessibility, its rich avifauna and its offering of comforts to the traveller which are rare in tropical South America. In marked contrast is the scanty knowledge of the birds of the adjoining mainland, of that whole group of mountains comprised within the territory designated, by Dr. Ernst, as the eastern district.

Lying off the northern coast, seventeen miles from the mainland, is the island of Margarita, the avifauna of which was a sealed book until Lieut. Wirt Robinson[2] visited it in the summer of 1895. In size the island is somewhat smaller than Trinidad but in aspect there is little resemblance, it being for the most part desert.

Two collections, only, have been made on the mainland adjoining these two islands. In the winter of 1866–67, Mr. A. Goering made a trip of several months, penetrating the interior,

[1] On Venezuelan Birds collected by Mr. A. Goering. By P. L. Sclater and Osbert Salvin. P. Z. S., 1868, pp. 165–173, and 626–632; 1869, pp. 250–259; and 1870, pp. 779–788.

[2] An Annotated List of Birds observed on the Island of Margarita, and at Guanta and Laguayra, Venezuela. With critical notes and descriptions of new species by Charles W. Richmond. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., XVIII, pp. 649–685, Pl. XXXIII.

from Carúpano, as far as Caripe. Unfortunately a large part of this collection was lost in transportation. Mrs. H. H. Smith[1] spent ten days at Carúpano and El Pilar in November, 1891.

I chose Cumaná as my starting point, from where I penetrated the interior almost to the Orinoco lowlands.

Cumaná. — Only three days were spent in collecting at this place, August 11, 12, and 14. The character of the soil and vegetation of the country lying between the water's edge and the summit of the range of hills, which lies about five miles back from the coast, is totally different from what is found throughout the mountainous interior. Although in this part of Venezuela it rains nearly every day from June to October, this strip of land along the coast seems to be freer from the rains and has the appearance of a dry desert, owing to the character of the rock and soil. There are no forests but in their place is cactus scrub extending for miles in every direction, extremely difficult to penetrate except along the beaten paths. Besides the cactus there is little vegetation except a stunted species of tree. The Manzanares River flows across this plain and into the sea at Cumaná. Along the very banks of this river are cocoanuts, bamboos and large trees, but these only grow close to the water.

As might be expected, this region has an avifauna peculiar to itself. The following species seem to be characteristic of what may be called the coastal zone:

Cardinalis phœniceus	Doleromya fallax
Euetheia omissa	Scardafella squamosa

Cumanacoa. — Twenty miles into the interior as the bird flies, and twice that by the mule trail, lies the village of Cumanacoa. A greater contrast to the coast region could hardly be imagined. The town lies in the broad valley of the Manzanares River, where, instead of a parched soil bearing nothing but cactus, there is a rich black soil and a most luxuriant tropical vegetation. Large plantations of sugar cane occupy this fertile valley. Bamboo forests, the paradise of birds, lie in every direction. Bananas grow in profusion, while the cocoanut is seen here for

[1] Notice of some Venezuelan Birds collected by Mrs. H. H. Smith. By Dr. J. A. Allen. Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., 1892, pp. 51–56.

the last time, as it cannot exist at any great distance from the sea. Almost completely enclosing this valley are hills and mountains, rising to a height of several thousand feet. These present a peculiar appearance as many of them are completely clothed by long grass with no traces of forest. Others are heavily wooded even to their summits. Cumanacoa being at an altitude of about 1000 feet has an agreeable climate. The nights are cool enough to make a blanket desirable while the heat is not oppressive during the day.

As might be expected, many of the birds inhabiting the coastal scrub were here absent. Many species were also found here which were not met with south of the watershed of the Caribbean and Gulf of Parian waters. This height of land lies about fifteen miles south of Cumanacoa. My stay in this locality was two weeks, from June 29 to July 12.

San Antonio. — Beyond the watershed to the southeast, the same distance from Cumanacoa as the latter is from Cumaná, is San Antonio. Instead of a broad, flat valley planted with cane, there is a small village nestled in a narrow valley with mountains rising precipitously on both sides. A rapid stream flows on its way to the Gulf of Paria instead of to the Caribbean Sea. The sides of the mountains are planted with coffee, the chief wealth of the region. A few miles to the west is Mt. Turumiquire, the highest peak in this group of mountains. San Antonio itself is somewhat higher than Cumanacoa, probably about 1500 feet.

The avifauna, although quite similar to that of Cumanacoa, seems to have a strong infusion of species from the south; from the Orinoco lowlands. These have followed up the Guarapiche River, but go no further north than its headwaters. As would be expected, the number of species peculiar to this southern watershed is much greater than the number found in Cumanacoa and not in San Antonio. My stay in San Antonio was twenty days, from July 14 to August 2.

Guanaguana and Caripe. — From San Antonio I took a trip of five days, August 3–7, to these towns, which lie to the southeast and east. The special object of this trip was to visit the famous Guacharo cave of Humboldt, where that traveller discovered the remarkable bird *Steatornis caripensis*. Thus I reached the same

point as did Goering in 1866 but by a different route. This little side trip brought out, among other things, the very local distribution of some tropical species. This was especially shown by the abundance of *Zonotrichia pileata* in the valley of Caripe. This species was wholly absent from the savannas about San Antonio, although the character of the country in the two places was identical.

Faunal position of Margarita.— The birds of the larger part of Margarita, which island lies directly opposite Cumaná, are similar to those of the coastal zone, as the island possesses the same characteristics as the country about Cumaná. It seems, however, that many of the forms inhabiting Margarita have differentiated, since Mr. Charles W. Richmond has described no fewer than eleven of the species brought back by Lieut. Robinson as new to science. Most of them are birds of the cactus scrub, which seem to be bleached out representatives of the species inhabiting the adjacent mainland. Since these specimens were collected during the summer, and as hitherto no summer skins have existed from the mainland for comparison, it is interesting to compare my Cumaná skins, collected at the same season, with them. Owing to the small number of specimens collected at Cumaná a satisfactory comparison cannot be made. However, through the kindness of Lieut. Robinson, I was enabled to examine many of his skins and to compare them with mine. Although Mr. P. L. Sclater[1] doubts the validity of the Margaritan species I believe that good series from both the island and Cumaná will show distinctive characters, although these will be less marked than was supposed. The closeness to the mainland forms would indicate a no very remote separation of the island from the continent, and that some of the species are gradually assuming distinctive characters.

If, then, a comparison of good series from both Margarita and Cumaná or Carúpano establishes the validity of these insular forms, a new district, the Margaritan, must be added to those already defined by Dr. Ernst.

Faunal position of Trinidad.— In working over my skins the collections made in Trinidad by Mr. Frank M. Chapman were at

[1] Ibis, 1897, III, pp. 282–284.

my disposal, through the kindness of Dr. J. A. Allen, Curator of birds in the American Museum of Natural History, and I was therefore enabled to make direct comparisons of the specimens from the island with mine from the mainland. As a result I have been able to greatly reduce the number of forms hitherto supposed to be confined to Trinidad, so bringing the island and mainland into still closer faunal connection.

Mr. Chapman,[1] after pointing out the close geographical, geological and faunal relation of the island to South America, says (p. 7), " . . . . it is therefore of special interest to note the effects of this recent insulation on the birds of the island. Unfortunately we have not as yet sufficient exact data from the adjoining main to make a satisfactory comparison, but as before stated, the relationships of the birds of the island to those of the continent are remarkably close. As far as we at present know the following species and subspecies of birds are peculiar to Trinidad or to Trinidad and Tobago:

Merula xanthosceles.	Basileuterus vermivorus olivascens.
Cyclorhis flavipectus.	Lanio lawrenceii.
Chlorospingus leotaudi.	Sporophila lineola trinitatis.
Platyrhynchus mystaceus insularis.	Rhamphocænus melanurus trinitatis.
Myrmeciza longipes albiventris.	Amazilia erythronota.
Momotus swainsoni.	Pipile pipile.

" Most of these birds are simply insular representatives of mainland species to which they are closely allied."

Five of these twelve forms I found to correspond with my examples from the mainland and so they must be eliminated from the list of peculiar Trinidad species. These are:

Cyclorhis flavipectus.	Basileuterus vermivorus olivascens.
Myrmeciza longipes albiventris.	Rhamphocænus melanurus trinitatis.
Amazilia erythronota.	

[1] On the Birds of the Island of Trinidad. Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., 1894, VI, pp. 1–86.

A sixth form, *Playtrhynchus mystaceus insularis*, was found by Lieut. Robinson at Laguayra, so there are now but six[1] forms left which as yet have not been found on the continent. I doubt if these will long remain peculiar to Trinidad, and I believe that as the birds of the nearby mainland become better known, those few remaining species will gradually be eliminated.

As the distinctness of the Trinidad avifauna is reduced by the occurrence of these forms on the mainland, so is the distinctness of the Eastern District of Dr. Ernst increased. This district was first recognized by the occurrence of many birds from the Guianas and Brazil which did not seem to occur further westward in Venezuela. If further study in other parts of Venezuela shows that the above mentioned subspecies are restricted to the northeastern part of the country, and to Trinidad, then there is added the evidence that, in addition to these species from the southeast, several forms attain subspecific rank in this district.

I give here a list of the birds observed; all those not marked with a * are represented in my collection by skins. Letters following the names indicate the localities where the species was found; thus C = Cumaná; CC = Cumanacoa; S = San Antonio; G = Guanaguana; Ca = Caripe.

Turdidæ.

1. Catharus aurantiirostris (*Hartlaub*), S, Ca.
2. Merula albiventris (*Spix*), S.
3. Merula gymnophthalma (*Cab.*), CC, S.
4. Mimus gilvus (*Vieill.*), S, C.

Sylviidæ.

5. Polioptila leucogastra (*Max.*), C.

Troglodytidæ.

6. Thryothorus rutilus *Vieill.*, CC, S.
7. Thryophilus rufalbus cumanensis (*Licht.*), CC.
8. Troglodytes rufulus *Cab.*, CC, S.

Mniotiltidæ.

9. Compsothlypis pitiayumi (*Vieill.*), S.
10. Basileuterus vermivorus olivascens *Chapm.*, S.

Cœrebidæ.

11. Cœreba luteola *Cab.*, CC.
12. Arbelorhina cærulea (*L.*), S.
13. Dacnis plumbea (*Lath.*), C.

[1] Since the paper above quoted was written Mr. Chapman has described *Synallaxis carri* from Trinidad (Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., 1895, VII, p. 32). This species has not been found on the mainland.

Vireonidæ.

14. Cyclorhis flavipectus *Scl.*, CC, S.
15. Vireo chivi agilis (*Licht.*), CC, S.
16. Hylophilus flavipes *Lafr.*, CC, S.
17. Hylophilus aurantiifrons *Lawr.*, C, S, G.

Hirundinidæ.

18. Atticora cyanoleuca (*Vieill.*), Ca.
19. Stelgidopteryx uropygialis (*Lawr.*), CC, S.

Procniidæ.

20. Procnias tersa occidentalis (*Scl*), S.

Tanagridæ.

21. Euphonia crassirostris *Scl.*, CC, S, Ca.
22. Euphonia trinitatis *Strickl.*, S.
23. Calliste cayana (*L.*), S.
24. Calliste desmaresti *Gray*, S.
25. Calliste guttata (*Cab.*), Ca.
26. Tanagra cana sclateri (*Berl.*), CC, S.
27. Tanagra cyanocephala subcinerea (*Scl.*), Ca.
28. Ramphocelus jacapa magnirostris (*Lafr.*), CC, Ca, S.
29. Piranga hæmalea *S. & G.*, S.
30. Piranga ardens (*Tsch.*), S.
31. Phœnicothraupis rubra (*Vieill.*), CC.
32. Tachyphonus luctuosus *Lafr.*, CC.
33. Tachyphonus rufus (*Bodd.*), CC, S.
34. Saltator albicollis *Vieill.*, S.
35. Saltator olivascens *Cab.*, C, CC.
36. Schistochlamys atra (*Gm.*), S, Ca.

Fringillidæ.

37. Cardinalis phœniceus *Bp.*, C.
38. Guiraca cyanea (*L.*), S.
39. Spinus cucullatus (*Swains.*), S.
40. Spinus psaltria columbianus (*Lafr.*), S.
41. Sporophila grisea (*Gm.*), CC, S.
42. Sporophila gutturalis (*Licht.*), CC, S.
43. Sporophila minuta (*L.*), CC, S.
44. Volatinia jacarina splendens (*Bp.*), CC, S.
45. Euetheia omissa (*Jard.*), C.
46. Zonotrichia pileata (*Bodd.*), Ca.
47. Ammodramus manimbe (*Licht.*), S, Ca.
48. Embernagra striaticeps conirostris (*Bp.*), CC, S.
49. Emberizoides macrurus (*Gm.*), S, Ca.

Icteridæ.

50. Ostinops decumanus (*Pall.*), CC.
51. Cassicus persicus (*L.*), S.
52. Icterus auricapillus *Cassin*, S.
53. Icterus xanthornus (*Gm.*), C, CC.
54. Icterus vulgaris *Daud.*, G.
55. Sturnella magna meridionalis (*Scl.*), S.
56. * Quiscalus lugubris (*Swains.*), C.

Corvidæ.

57. Xanthura cæruleocephala (*Dubois*), CC, S.

Tyrannidæ.

58. Sayornis cineracea (*Lafr.*), S.
59. Fluvicola pica (*Bodd.*), C.
60. Todirostrum cinereum (*L.*), C, CC.
61. Colopterus pilaris *Cab.*, CC, S.
62. Mionectes olivaceus *Lawr.*, Ca.
63. Mionectes oleagineus (*Licht.*), S.
64. Leptopogon superciliaris *Cab.*, Ca.
65. Capsiempis flaveola (*Licht.*), CC.
66. Ornithion pusillum (*Cab.*), CC, S.
67. Elainea gaimardi (*d'Orb.*), CC.
68. Elainea pagana (*Licht.*), CC, S.
69. Elainea albiventris *Chapm.*, sp. nov., CC.
70. Legatus albicollis (*Vieill.*), CC.
71. Sublegatus glaber *Scl. & Salv.*, C.
72. Myiozetetes texensis (*Giraud*), CC.
73. Myiozetetes cayennensis (*L.*), S.
74. Rhynchocyclus sulphurescens (*Spix*), S.
75. Pitangus derbianus rufipennis (*Lafr.*), C, CC, S.
76. Myiodynastes audax (*Gm.*), CC.
77. Myiobius nævius (*Bodd.*), CC, S, G.
78. Contopus brachytarsus (*Scl.*), S.
79. Myiarchus tuberculifer (*d'Orb. & Lafr.*), S.
80. Myiarchus tyrannulus (*Müll.*), C, CC, S.
81. Tyrannus melancholicus satrapa (*Licht.*), S.
82. Milvulus tyrannus (*L.*), C, S.

Pipridæ.

83. Chiroxiphia lanceolata (*Wagler*), CC.

Cotingidæ.

84. Tityra cayana (L.), S.
85. Pachyrhamphus cinereus (*Bodd.*), G.
86. Pachyrhamphus polychropterus cinereiventris (*Scl.*), CC, S.

Dendrocolaptidæ.

87. Synallaxis albescens *Temm.*, CC, S, Ca.
88. Siptornis subcristata *Scl. & Salv.*, Ca.
89. Phacellodomus inornatus *Ridgw.*, G.
90. Sittasomus phelpsi *Chapm.*, sp. nov., Ca.
91. Dendrornis susurrans (*Jard.*), CC.
92. Xiphorhynchus venezuelensis *Chapm.*, CC.

Formicariidæ.

93. Thamnophilus major albicrissus (*Ridgw.*), CC.
94. Thamnophilus doliatus (*L.*), C, CC, S.
95. Thamnophilus cirrhatus (*Gm.*), G.
96. Formicivora intermedia *Cab.*, CC, S.
97. Myrmeciza longipes albiventris *Chapm.*, CC, S.
98. Rhamphocœnus melanurus trinitatis (*Less.*), CC, S.

Trochilidæ.

99. Glaucis hirsutus (*Gm.*), CC, S.
100. Phaëthornis augusti (*Bourc.*), S.
101. Phaëthornis guyi (*Less.*), CC.
102. Campylopterus ensipennis (*Swains.*), CC.
103. Lampornis violicauda (*Bodd.*), CC.
104. Thalurania refulgens *Gould*, S.
105. Floricola longirostris (*Vieill.*), CC, S, G.
106. Doleromya fallax (*Bourc.*), C.
107. Agyrtria chionipectus (*Gould*), CC.
108. Amazilia erythronota (*Less.*), CC, S.
109. Chrysuronia œnone (*Less.*), CC.

Caprimulgidæ.

110. *Chordeiles acutipennis (*Bodd.*), C.
111. Nyctidromus albicollis (*Gm.*), CC.

Steatornidæ.

112. *Steatornis caripensis *Humb.*, Ca.

Picidæ.

113. Picumnus obsoletus *Allen*, CC.
114. Ceophlœus lineatus (*L.*), CC.
115. Chloronerpes rubiginosus (*Swains.*), S.
116. Melanerpes subelegans (*Bp.*), C, CC.

Galbulidæ.

117. Galbula ruficauda *Cuv.*, CC.

Alcedinidæ.

118. Ceryle americana (*Gm.*), C. CC, S, Ca.
119. *Ceryle amazona (*Lath.*), CC, S.

Cuculidæ.

120. Crotophaga ani *L.*, CC, S.
121. *Diplopteryx nævius (*L.*), S, Ca.
122. Piaya cayana (*L.*), CC.

Psittacidæ.

123. Conurus æruginosus (*L.*), CC, S.
124. Pionus sordidus (*L.*), S.
125. Psittacula guianensis (*Swains.*), C.

Strigidæ.

126. Asio mexicanus (*Gm.*), S.
127. Glaucidium phalænoides (*Daud.*), CC.

Cathartidæ.

128. *Cathartes aura (*L.*), C, CC, S.
129. *Catharista atrata (*Bartr.*), C, CC, S.

Falconidæ.

130. Ictinea plumbea (*Gm.*), S.
131. Elanoides forficatus (*L.*), S, CC.
132. Asturina magnirostris (*Gm.*), CC.
133. Falco sparverius (*L.*), S, CC,

Columbidæ.

134. Engyptila erythorothorax (*Temm.*), CC, S.
135. Scardafella squamosa (*Temm.*), C.
136. Columbigallina rufipennis (*Bp.*), CC, S.
137. *Columbigallina passerina (*L.*), C, CC, S.

Tetraonidæ.

138. Eupsychortyx sonnini (*Temm.*), CC, S.

Charadriidæ.

139. Ægialitis collaris (*Vieill.*), C.

Scolopacidæ.

140. Actitis macularia (*L.*), C, CC, S.

141. Gallinago frenata (*Licht.*), S.

Ardeidæ.

142. Ardea cyanura (*Vieill.*), C.

Pelecanidæ.

143. * Pelecanus fuscus *L.*, C.

Laridæ.

144. * Phäethusa magnirostris (*Licht.*), C.

I shall conclude with notes on some of the more interesting of the foregoing species by Mr. Frank M. Chapman, Assistant Curator of the Department of Ornithology and Mammalogy in the American Museum of Natural History, and with a few annotations. I wish to express my thanks to Mr. Chapman for his kindness in looking over the collection and in making the notes which follow.

Catharus aurantiirostris (*Hartlaub*). This very interesting bird was found at San Antonio and at Caripe but it was by no means common. It seems out of place in the tropics, where most birds are such weak singers, for it has a song which for sweetness rivals that of any of our Thrushes. It is very high and musical, and is heard only along some stream in the deepest woods of the mountain sides.

[Thryophilus rufalbus cumanensis (*Licht.*).

Troglodytes cumanensis LICHT. Nomencl. Av. 1854, 34.

Thryophilus rufalbus castanotus RIDGW. Proc. Bost. Soc. N. H., XIII, 1888, p. 386.

Four adults have slightly smaller bills than two Panama specimens, labelled by Mr. Ridgway *Thryophilus rufalbus castanotus*, but in other respects closely agree with them.

Lichenstein's type of *cumanensis* came from Cartagena and as specimens from both east and west of the type locality agree with each other it is more than probable that they would also resemble the type. I have therefore taken the name of *cumanensis* for the southern form of *Thryophilus rufalbus*.— F. M. C.]

Very common in the underbrush in the bamboo woods of the Cumanacoa valley.

Basileuterus vermivorus olivascens *Chapm.* Common in San Antonio in the underbrush, especially near water.

[Four specimens agree with a series of eight examples, including the type, from Trinidad.— F. M. C.]

Ammodramus manimbe (*Licht.*). Common in the savannas.

[Three adults agree exactly in color with specimens from Matto Grosso, Brazil, in corresponding plumage, but are considerably smaller. The average measurements, in inches, of the three Venezuelan birds and four from Matto Grosso are as follows:

	Wing.	*Tail.*	*Tarsus.*
Venezuela	2.11	1.54	.71
Matto Grosso	2.37	1.83	.71

The Venezuelan birds have, therefore, shorter wings and tail but equally long tarsi, facts which suggest that they may be more sedentary than the birds of southern Brazil.— F. M. C.]

Icterus xanthornus (*Gm.*). [An immature female, apparently in its second year, has the wings fuscous, the tail brownish yellow, the back greenish, but otherwise resembles the adult. A bird of the year is similarly colored but has only four black feathers on the throat. Neither plumage appears to have been previously described.— F. M. C.]

Elainea pagana (*Licht.*). [Five specimens in worn plumage are typical of this species.— F. M. C.]

[Elainea albiventris, sp. nov.

Char. Sp.— Similar to *Elainea pagana albiceps* but with the upper parts much greener and the under parts whiter.

Description of type (No. 1180, Coll. W. H. P., Cumanacoa, Venezuela, July 3, 1897, W. H. Phelps). Upper parts uniform *olive-green* with a barely perceptible brownish tinge; wings fuscous, the greater and lesser coverts tipped with dingy yellowish white forming two conspicuous wing-bars; outer margin of the terminal part of the inner secondaries dingy yellowish white; tail fuscous, the feathers margined externally with brownish olive-green, the under surface of their shafts nearly pure *white*; a concealed white crown-patch; throat and breast *grayish white;* middle of the belly *white*; sides of the breast, sides, and flanks washed with greenish yellow; under wing-coverts lemon yellow; crissum pale yellow. Wing, 2.68; tail, 2.34; tarsus, .72; exposed culmen, .34; breadth of bill at anterior end of nostril, .16.

This species is represented in Mr. Phelps's collection by four adult specimens, one male and three females, which are just completing the (post-breeding) moult. It is only after careful comparison of these specimens with a large series of *Elainea p. albiceps* from southern Brazil that I have decided to add a species to an already overburdened genus. The

distinctness of these Venezuelan birds, however, is so apparent that I have no hesitation in describing them as new. They closely agree *inter se* in both size and color, and are readily distinguishable from any one of a series containing nearly fifty specimens of *Elainea p. albiceps.*— F. M. C.]

Found in Cumanacoa in large trees in the open country. Average length, in meat, 5.9 inches. Iris brown. Upper mandible brown, lower pinkish flesh, brown at tip. Legs brownish black.

Leptopogon superciliaris *Cab.* [Two specimens, extending the range of this species from Colombia to Venezuela.— F. M. C.].

Pachyrhamphus polychropterus cinereiventris (*Scl.*). [Two adult males are intermediate between *P. polychropterus niger* and *P. p. cinereiventris*, but are slightly nearer to the latter than to the former.— F. M. C.]

Siptornis subcristata *Scl. Salv.* [Mr. Phelps's collection contains a single example of a *Siptornis* which very probably should be referred to this rare species. The type of *S. subcristata* was collected by Goering at Caracas and is figured in the 'Proceedings' of the Zoological Society for 1874 (Pl. IV, fig. 1). Apparently the same bird is again figured in the Catalogue of the British Museum (Vol. XX. Pl. IV). The differences between these figures are so great that they might well represent distinct species, and while Mr. Phelps's specimen is about as far from the P. Z. S. figure as the latter is from the figure in the British Museum Catalogue, it seems more advisable to assume that neither figure is correct than to describe this specimen under a new name.— F. M. C.]

Phacellodomus inornatus *Ridgw.* [An adult female differs from *P. frontalis* as described by Mr. Ridgway (Proc. U. S. N. M., 1887, p. 152).— F. M. C.]

[Sittasomus phelpsi, sp. nov.[1]

Char. Sp.—Differing from previously described species in its clear olive-green head and back, and in having the under parts but slightly paler than the upper parts.

Description of type (No. 1496, Coll. W. H. P., Caripe, Venezuela, August 7, 1897, W. H. Phelps). Head, back, wing-coverts and exposed margins of the basal half of the primaries clear olive-green with no admixture of rufous or grayish; exposed part of inner secondaries, outer margin of apical portion of primaries and remaining secondaries, rump, upper and under tail-coverts, and rectrices bright chestnut-rufous; under parts a tint lighter than the back; under wing-coverts and sub-basal portion of the inner web of the secondaries and inner primaries yellowish white. Wing, 3.10; tail, 3.06; tarsus, .70; bill from anterior margin of nostril to end of lower mandible (upper mandible broken), .40.

[1] Named in honor of its collector, Mr. W. H. Phelps.

This species is apparently most nearly related to *Sittasomus griseus* Jard. of Tobago. The latter is doubtless an insular form of the Venezuelan bird, from which it differs in having both upper and under parts "grayish oil-green" and the scapulars [=inner secondaries?], rump and tail "brownish orange."[1]

Sittasomus olivaceus (=*S. erithacus* Licht.), as described by Dr. Sclater,[2] closely agrees with the bird here distinguished as *Sittasomus phelpsi.* As pointed out by Mr. Ridgway,[3] however, the *Sittasomus olivaceus* of Sclater includes four distinct species, *viz: S. griseus* Jard., already mentioned, *S. amazonus* Lafr. (Borba, Barra, and Theotonio, Brazil), *S. chapadensis* Ridgw. (Matto Grosso, Brazil), and *S. sylvioides* Lafr. (Mexico). The list of specimens in the British Museum Catalogue shows that Dr. Sclater had examples of most if not all of these species, though his description applies to none of them, but to the previously unnamed bird, which I have here called *Sittasomus phelpsi. Sittasomus chapadensis* has the back mixed with the rufous of the rump, the wings are largely rufous externally, the under parts are tinged with yellowish, the under wing-coverts and basal wing-bands are buffy. *S. amazonus* is "much grayer" than *S. chapadensis*, and differs in other respects, while *S. sylvioides* has a "uniform brown back," leaving *S. phelpsi* as the only species in the genus having a clear olive-green back and lower parts, and, with the exception of *S. griseus*, the only one having the basal wing-band pale yellowish white instead of buffy yellow.—F. M. C.]

This species was taken in a high forested valley within a very short distance of the Guacharo cave of Humboldt. The following notes were taken in the flesh: Length, 7.25; bill, brownish-black with some gray in the middle of lower mandible; legs, olivaceous-slate.

Thamnophilus major albicrissus (*Ridgw.*). This subspecies was described by Mr. Ridgway[4] from a skin presumably from Trinidad. Mr. Chapman[5] says, concerning this form, "A male from El Pilar, Ven., and also one from British Guiana, agree with Trinidad specimens, and it is probable that all birds from north of the Amazon should stand as *Thamnophilus major albicrissus.*" Two males and two females in my collection agree closely with the Trinidad specimens in the American Museum, thus confirming the above statement of the non-insularity of this subspecies.

Thamnophilus cirrhatus (*Gm.*). Mr. Ridgway[4] has described *Thamnophilus trinitatis* from Trinidad. Mr. Chapman[5] considers this a syn-

[1] Jardine, Ann. & Mag. N. H., XIX, 1847, p. 82.

[2] Cat. Birds Brit. Mus., XV, 1890, p. 119.

[3] Notes on the genus *Sittasomus* of Swainson. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., XIV, 1891, pp. 507–510.

[4] Description of Two Supposed New Forms of *Thamnophilus.* Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., 1891, XIV, p. 481.

[5] Further Notes on Trinidad Birds, with a Description of a New Species of *Synallaxis.* Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., 1895, VII, pp. 321–326.

onym of *T. cirrhatus*, as one of his specimens agreed with skins from Guiana. Two specimens in my collection agree with the Demerara skins, but not with the examples from Trinidad, with the exception of the single one mentioned by Mr. Chapman. The degree of individual variation in this species must be worked out before the synonymy can be established.

Amazilia erythronota (*Less.*). The most abundant Hummer.

[Comparing six specimens collected by Mr. Phelps with eight specimens in the American Museum, including two authentic Trinidad examples, I can find no grounds for the continued separation of the Venezuelan and Trinidad birds.

The alleged character of difference in the color of the lower tail-coverts proves, as Mr. Salvin has remarked,[1] to be inconstant, this character in the Venezuelan specimens before me ranging from dusky to cinnamon-rufous. Nor is the color of the tail of value, the Trinidad examples being exactly matched by those from the mainland.

I have seen no specimens of *A. tobaci* from Tobago and therefore adopt the name *erythronota* provisionally. — F. M. C.]

Steatornis caripensis *Humb.* The famous cave, near the town of Caripe, where this species was discovered by Humboldt, was visited on August 5 and 6. The birds were found in great numbers and a thorough exploration of the large cave was made.

Picumnus obsoletus *Allen.* [Three males essentially resemble the type of *P. obsoletus* except in the color of the crown-spots, which are lemon-yellow instead of orange-red. Two young specimens of *Picumnus guttifer* have both yellow and red feathers in the crown and it seems probable therefore that Mr. Phelps's specimens are immature. In respect to the squamation of the under parts they agree with the type of *obsoletus* in being more lightly marked than *P. squamulatus* of which I have examined seven specimens, including three kindly loaned me by Mr. Charles W. Richmond, Assistant Curator of the Department of Birds in the U. S. National Museum. — F. M. C.]

THE HORNED LARKS OF MAINE.

BY O. W. KNIGHT.

UNTIL the present year, 1897, *Otocoris alpestris* had been the only variety of Horned Lark which had been recorded from Maine, but in view of the fact that *O. a. praticola* had been reported

[1] Cat. Birds Brit. Mus., XVI, p. 225.